

KIDERLEN-

WACHTER^THEMANOFAGADIR 143

political considerations were involved, and it was above all the railway dispute which destroyed the economic condominium.

The whole story of attempted co-operation has been told with inside information in Tardieu's masterly work *Le Mjsten d'Agadir*.

The French military authorities had long demanded like from Casablanca into the Shawia district and from the Algerian frontier to Ujda, both in French occupation. In January 1911 Germany announced that she did not object to railways in the military zones of occupation if they were open to trade on equal terms for all. But she argued that a special agreement was necessary if the line was built beyond Ujda towards Fez, and suggested the employment of the Societf Marocaine des Travaux Publics, an association of French and German capitalists, and the prior construction of a line from Tangier to Fez. When Pichon accepted these conditions an agreement was in sight, and on March 2 Jules Cambon advised his chief to sign the German draft. At this moment Pichon disappeared with the fall of the Briand Cabinet, and his successor Cnippi, ignoring Cambon's warnings, deckred that the draft needed further study. At the same moment the new Ministry vetoed an arrangement for Franco-German co-operation in the French Congo. Such a sudden change of attitude at Paris produced the exasperation in Berlin which the experienced Ambassador had foretold.

While the economic *condominium* was breaking down, the political situation went from bad to worse. French loans failed to buttress die Sultan's waning authority, and when the tribes round Fez rose in March, 1911, he had no reliable troops to defend the capital. On March 13 Kiderlen spoke grayely to the Ambassador of rumours of French action. "German

opinion might be excited, and it would be wise if Germany were informed in good time. By small successive military operations France could be led on to an even more extended operation, which would end by annulling the Aigeciras Act/' Here was Kiderlen's first warning. The Ambassador replied that France's plans were not fixed, but she would respect the Act as hitherto. On April 4, after a visit to Paris, he informed Kiderlen that the Europeans in Fez were in danger, and that France would probably occupy Rabat with a view to sending a column to the capital to facilitate their departure. "Your Excellency knows my desire to avoid all public excitement about Morocco," replied the Foreign Minister. "I hope the